HEALTH IN MARGATE.—A sheet prepared and published by Mr. E. Mottley, together with a pamphlet published by him in 1850,* and both based on the valuable reports of the Registrar-General, show that the inhabitants of Margate are singularly well off in respect to vital statistics. To exhibit at a single glance the two extremes of vitality in England, it is only necessary to remark that while in 1851-2 the number of chances of life against death in Liverpool, where mortality is greater than at Naples, the most unhealthy capital in Europe, was as twenty-eight to one, at Falmouth and at Margate it was as fifty-six to one,—or precisely two to one in favour of Margate or Falmouth. Brighton stands, alas! far below such places as Margate in this respect, being only thirty-eight to one. Hanover-square is much on a par with Brighton,—not by any means more unhealthy, rather a little the other way; but perhaps it is this harmony, shall we call it, of comparative (certainly not of superlative) healthfulness, which intuitively induces periodical flights from the one kindred climate to the other. What people seek, however, or ought to seek, in periodical visits to watering-places, is an increase of healthfulness; yet the absolute salubrity of a place as respects its own permanent inhabitants, must not be confounded with or regarded as an index and exponent to its influence on strangers, and especially invalids. There are certain *severities*, shall we call them, of climate, which, while they may so act upon native flesh and blood as to make it healthful and long lived, might cut down the transplanted invalid in a night. We do not allude to Margate, however, at present, either way. It is regarded as somewhat "exposed," but we cannot say, from personal experience or otherwise, what influence it may have on certain classes of invalids peculiarly liable to injury from "exposure:" assuredly its influence on its own inhabitants appears to be highly beneficial. The Registrar-General's reports, as we have before said, will ultimately shed a most important light on the comparative salubrity of towns and villages; and, perhaps, this is one of the very points in which their influence on health and life ought to be specially distinguished. Indeed, the averages and statistics of special diseases already go so far towards the obtainment of the same desideratum.

HERTFORD LITERARY INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.—A crowded literary soirée was held by this society on Thursday in last week, as reported in the local *Mercury*, when Sir E. Bulwer Lytton; the Hon. F. W. Cowper, M.P.; and Mr. T. Chambers, M.P. attended, together with the mayor, and addressed the meeting. Sir E. B. Lytton, while doing due justice to the advancement of the present age, and paying profound respect to sound and true knowledge, said,—"I think the fault of our age is, not that it underrates the value of diffusing popular instruction through the means of libraries and institutes, but rather, perhaps, to expect too great results from the mere appetite for knowledge,—forgetting that it is not the eagerness of the appetite, but the soundness of the digestion that conduces to health and vigour. Knowledge is infinite; and all the most assiduous can acquire is so limited, that the true student finds his humility increase, in proportion as his information advances. If there is anything which may justify some anxiety in a sober and discreet judgment, it is the desire for intellectual cultivation which is the most remarkable and notable feature of our times. It is not any fear of knowledge itself, but it is the pompous and inflated boast of it, addressed to our vanity by those who find it more easy and more popular to flatter than to counsel. We do not fear the faithful watch-dog, while he guards the fold and directs the flock. But we do fear him very much—at least we regard him with considerable suspicion,—when we find him foaming at the mouth, and rattled out of his wits by the noise of the tin canister tied to his tail. If we look to France, we find that they have made such a din and clatter during the last eighty years, as to the grand results to be derived from knowledge and enlightenment, that knowledge and enlightenment have been frightened away; and in that country men seem rather inclined to get rid of the watch-dog altogether, than to run the risk of being driven into madness by the clang of the everlasting canister."

THE PANTOGRAPH.—A cutting and carving machine, whereby copies of all sorts of workmanship in wood, stone, or metal, and on a scale larger, smaller, or the same, compared with the originals, may be turned out with great rapidity, has been patented by Mr. Searby, and a company has been formed for the development of its capabilities. Acting on the principle of the slide-rest or floating bed, and directed by the pantograph, the machine is moved with such facility and exactness in all the directions of the cube, under a fixed tool or tools, that it is capable of producing, in cutting, carving, or engraving, a facsimile of almost anything presented to its operation. According to their statements, "the hardest substance offered no impediment to its powers: it can turn out copies of any shape you please. It will engrave seals to any pattern; turn out an exact copy of the Medicean Venus or the Greek Slave; furnish blocks to the calico printer, the floorcloth manufacturer, the paper-stainer, and the letterpress printer; execute monumental tablets and architectural ornaments; form saw-handles; cut names and sign-boards; or do anything else which requires any sort of shape or impression to be given to the hardest materials,—performing that which appears the most difficult or delicate feat, with as much despatch, exactness, and finish, as the easiest and least pretending. We have seen, for example, two initial letters which were cut in less than one minute, but which, we suppose, it would take a skilful stonemason the best part of an hour to chisel out only half as well. The utility of the machine may be inferred from its applicability in the single department of saw-handles. One of the company's machines, managed by a man and a boy, will produce 300 handles a day from one cutter; but, as each machine may have three cutters or more, it is obvious that the entire trade might be supplied by a few machines. The machine is cheap, and may be wrought with ease by any description of power, from hand to steam.

THE METAL TRADES.—The Birmingham correspondent of the *Times*, in allusion to the recent sudden advance in the price of metals, says:—"Several branches of manufacture experience great inconvenience, if they are not suffering serious loss, from its injurious consequences. Merchants, manufacturers, and factors are alike perplexed with the present uncertain state of affairs. Some, in the belief that the present prices of iron and copper will be maintained, are inclined to speculate by making extensive purchases; but the great majority of influential firms hold back from a thorough conviction that so soon as the present orders for rails are exhausted, a reduction of the price of iron must take place. Another advance in the price of zinc has taken place during the present week. It would seem particularly unfortunate that iron and copper should be so greatly enhanced in value at the very moment when the opening of the South American ports has inundated many of our merchants with valuable orders for Birmingham merchandise. But the more serious part of the question is with respect to the exports of British iron to North America. American houses in Birmingham give it as their opinion that in all probability the late advance will set the American furnaces to work, and that in the course of a short time a reduction of exports may be anticipated." A Birmingham paper states that "several ironmasters took large orders, extending nearly to Christmas, at low prices, just before the rise of iron took place, and consequently will now lose thousands of pounds by having to pay a greater rate of wages, and also an advance upon the raw material. From this it will be seen that it is not the ironmasters who are getting the money, but the manufacturers, who are realising 9*l.* 10s. for plates, 9*l.* for bars, and 8*l.* for nailers' rods." Yet, surely, the ironmasters meant, in raising the prices, to obtain at least a share of the profits.——At Willenhall lock-making is carried on to a greater extent than ever. The brass-foundry business at Birmingham is cramped by present prices, but in articles for the winter market considerable activity prevails. In consequence of the rise in the price of iron, cut nails have advanced 2s. 6d. per cwt. and other articles 5s. beyond previous prices.——Mr. J. F. Winslow, of Troy, New York, ironmaster, has patented some improvements in machinery for blooming iron. He claims "The application of a reciprocating hammer to machinery for blooming iron, operating by a rolling pressure, whereby impurities are more effectually removed from the iron, and the metallic mass consolidated and condensed."

MEMORIAL OF WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.—It has been proposed to place a memorial to the poet in the church now rebuilding at Cockermouth. Cockermouth is the place of his birth, and he received the first elements of his education in the endowed school adjoining the churchyard. His father, also, was buried near the chancel; and here, in his honours and gray hairs, he often stood and communed in spirit with his departed parent; but as yet no public testimony has been raised in a locality so much associated with the poet's personal history. It is intended to take advantage of the present opportunity, and that the great five-light east window of the chancel should be a "Memorial Window," filled with scriptural subjects, and inscribed to his memory. Subscriptions will surely not be wanting.

DUBLIN EXHIBITION BUILDING.—On Monday, 25th inst. the first column was fixed in its place, and received the first blow from his Excellency the Earl of Eglinton. On a large table in the lawn, the plans of the intended structure were exhibited, and Mr. Benson, the architect, attended and gave the required explanations. On a signal given by Lord Eglinton, the column was lowered into the socket prepared for it, and the final blow struck. The galleries will be 18 feet from the ground, supported on metal columns 12 inches diameter, with moulded bases and sockets for reception of girders of wrought-iron trellis work (136 in number), bound with tension-rods 3 inches by 1¼ inch of T iron, and weighing 8 cwt. each. The roofs, &c. are sustained by 160 pillars 20 feet high, and 30 of 36 feet in height.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC.—All the telegraph lines in the west, north-west, and south of America have united their undertakings under the title of the National Telegraph. This union embraces seventeen lines, representing 10,824 miles of telegraph, the chief office being in Cincinnati; and these 10,824 miles are connected indirectly with wires extending over thousands of other miles to every city and leading town in the States. The Cincinnati and Louisville Telegraph Company it appears in one year paid three dividends of 3 per cent. each, with one quarter's dividend retained for building the line. Their receipts for 1850 were 73,270 dols.; expenditure, 35,013 dols.; paid to connecting lines, 24,785 dols.; together, 59,802 dols.—leaving a residue of 13,476 dols. The total number of despatches recorded was 364,559.

AN ARCHITECT M.P.—Mr. James Bell, the new member for Guildford, brother of Mr. Jacob Bell, the late member for St. Albans, is a Fellow of the Institute of Architects, and in practice.

WELLINGTON TESTIMONIAL, LONDON.—A preliminary meeting was held on the 21st inst. at the Freemasons' Tavern, "to consider the propriety of erecting a permanent memorial of the nation's gratitude in honour of the late Duke of Wellington." Mr. Bilton took the chair. Resolutions were passed in acknowledgment of the services of the late Duke, and in favour of establishing a national institution to be called "The Wellington and United Services' Benevolent Institution," as a testimonial in his honour, and for the relief of veteran non-commissioned and petty officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines of her Majesty's and East India Company's services, and their widows and orphans.

* Keble, Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

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